

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 221461

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, ZA, XF

SUBJECT: KAUNDA'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON MIDDLE EAST
SETTLEMENT

REF: LUSAKA 3036

1. REGRET WE WERE NOT ABLE TO GET YOU A REPLY TO REFTEL IN
TIME FOR KAUNDA'S AUGUST 29 MEETING WITH THE ISRAELI
EMISSARY. IF YOU THINK IT USEFUL TO PROVIDE KAUNDA
FURTHER BACKGROUND ON CAMP DAVID TALKS, YOU MAY DRAW ON
FOLLOWING.

2. THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN EGYPT
AND ISRAEL SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR HAVE FOCUSED
ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AGREEMENT ON A DECLARATION OF PRIN-
CIPLES THAT WOULD SERVE AS A FRAMEWORK FOR A COMPREHENSIVE
SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT AND AGREEMENT ON
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PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS IN REGARD TO THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.
THE LATTER IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT SINCE IT IS THE CRUX
OF THE PROBLEM AND THE MAIN OBSTACLE TO AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE PARTIES. THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT
AND ISRAEL ON EGYPT-ISRAEL BILATERAL ISSUES, BUT PRESIDENT
SADAT HAS MADE CLEAR THAT HE IS NOT PREPARED TO REACH A
SETTLEMENT UNLESS THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE OF THE WEST

BANK AND GAZA IS RESOLVED.

2. WE EXPECT THAT THE TALKS AT CAMP DAVID WILL DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES. OUR OBJECTIVE AT CAMP DAVID WILL BE TO REACH AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL IN THE FIRST INSTANCE ON A BROAD SET OF PRINCIPLES WHICH WOULD SERVE AS GUIDELINES FOR FURTHER AND MORE DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS AND AS A BASIS FOR JORDAN AND REPRESENTATIVE PALESTINIANS TO JOIN THE TALKS. BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT RECOGNIZE THAT THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE CAN NO LONGER BE DEFINED, AS IT WAS IN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242, AS A "REFUGEE ISSUE" ONLY AND THAT ANY PEACE SETTLEMENT MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF PALESTINIAN ASPIRATIONS. HOWEVER, NOT JUST THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT BUT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF ISRAELIS AS WELL ARE ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO THE CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE. THE U.S. FOR ITS PART DOES NOT SEE AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE AS THE MOST REALISTIC OR DESIRABLE SOLUTION. HOWEVER, WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE REGARD THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AS ONE OF THE CORE ISSUES THAT MUST BE RESOLVED IF A PEACE SETTLEMENT IS TO BE ACHIEVED. WE HAVE TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THERE MUST BE A RESOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IN ALL ITS ASPECTS, AND THAT THIS RESOLUTION MUST RECOGNIZE THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND ENABLE THE PALESTINIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR OWN FUTURE.

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3. THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IS COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT. THE SITUATION IN 1978 IS NOT THE SAME AS IT WAS A DECADE EARLIER, AND ACCOUNT MUST BE TAKEN OF THIS FACT. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH THE PARTIES ON THIS AND FIND GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE FOR AN INTERIM REGIME ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA OF APPROXIMATELY FIVE-YEARS' DURATION AS A PRELUDE TO A SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD BE BASED ON THE CONSENT OF THE INHABITANTS OF THOSE AREAS. WE BELIEVE THAT PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THIS SORT OFFER THE BEST, IF NOT THE ONLY, HOPE FOR PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND HOPE WE CAN COUNT ON THE UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF ALL WHO SHARE THIS GOAL. CHRISTOPHER

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